

Legacy, page 14
Notes, page 15
Cardiac
Great escape

Thursday March 28 1996

Abu Dhabi D 6.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 2.25	Oman OR 1.00
Albania L 2.00	India IN 5.00	Poland PL 2.50
Andorra AD 165	Israel IL 1.50	Portugal P 200
Austria AS 28	Italy I 3.000	Qatar QR 1.50
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Belgium BF 90	Kuwait KD 3.00	Saudi Arabia S 10
Belarus BA 12.50	Latvia LV 2.00	Slovenia SI 2.00
Croatia HR 10.00	Lithuania LT 3.000	Spain ES 165
Cyprus CX 1.00	Luxembourg LF 55	Sweden SE 16
Czechia CZ 10.00	Madagascar MG 4.00	Switzerland SF 3
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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Labour's multi millionaire comeback kid

Jags to riches

G2 with European weather

Matthew Engel on the shambles in English cricket

Testing times

Inside Story G2 page 4

OnLine

The risks of everyday life

G2 pages 10/13

Unease as unions sidelined on pre-election manifesto • NEC rules against candidate

Blair plans policy ballot

Patrick Wintour and Larry Elliott

TONY BLAIR cut the unions out of a key stage of policy-making for the first time yesterday, when he announced he would ballot the party's 350,000 members to endorse a pre-election manifesto.

The method could become a model for consultation for Mr Blair in government but is seen by the left as a further marginalisation of the trade union voice.

The manifesto is to be drawn up this summer, with a ballot likely around Christmas. It will cover the economy, the welfare state, the constitution and Europe, but will not include tax and spending pledges.

The plan outlined by Mr Blair followed a bruising discussion on the party's National Executive Committee yesterday. It is designed to bind the rank and file into his vision of New Labour, distil its election pledges to reduce exposure to Conservative distractions and inject the sense of momentum around the party in the crucial months leading to the election.

Mr Blair said: "For the first time a political party will be entering a general election with its programme for government voted upon by its party members. It will nail for ever any doubt that we are anything other than New Labour."

NEC members, not just on the left, said the ballot plan was criticised by the clear majority of the speakers at yesterday's meeting, including some key union voices. Some warned a move to plebi-

scitary democracy would damage the expected pre-election mood of unity at party conferences. Others claimed a low turnout in the ballot might allow the Tories to argue that Mr Blair is leading a reluctant party.

Two NEC sources claimed resistance had been so intense that they were left with the impression that Mr Blair would simply invite the membership to pledge themselves to support the programme, rather than hold a ballot.

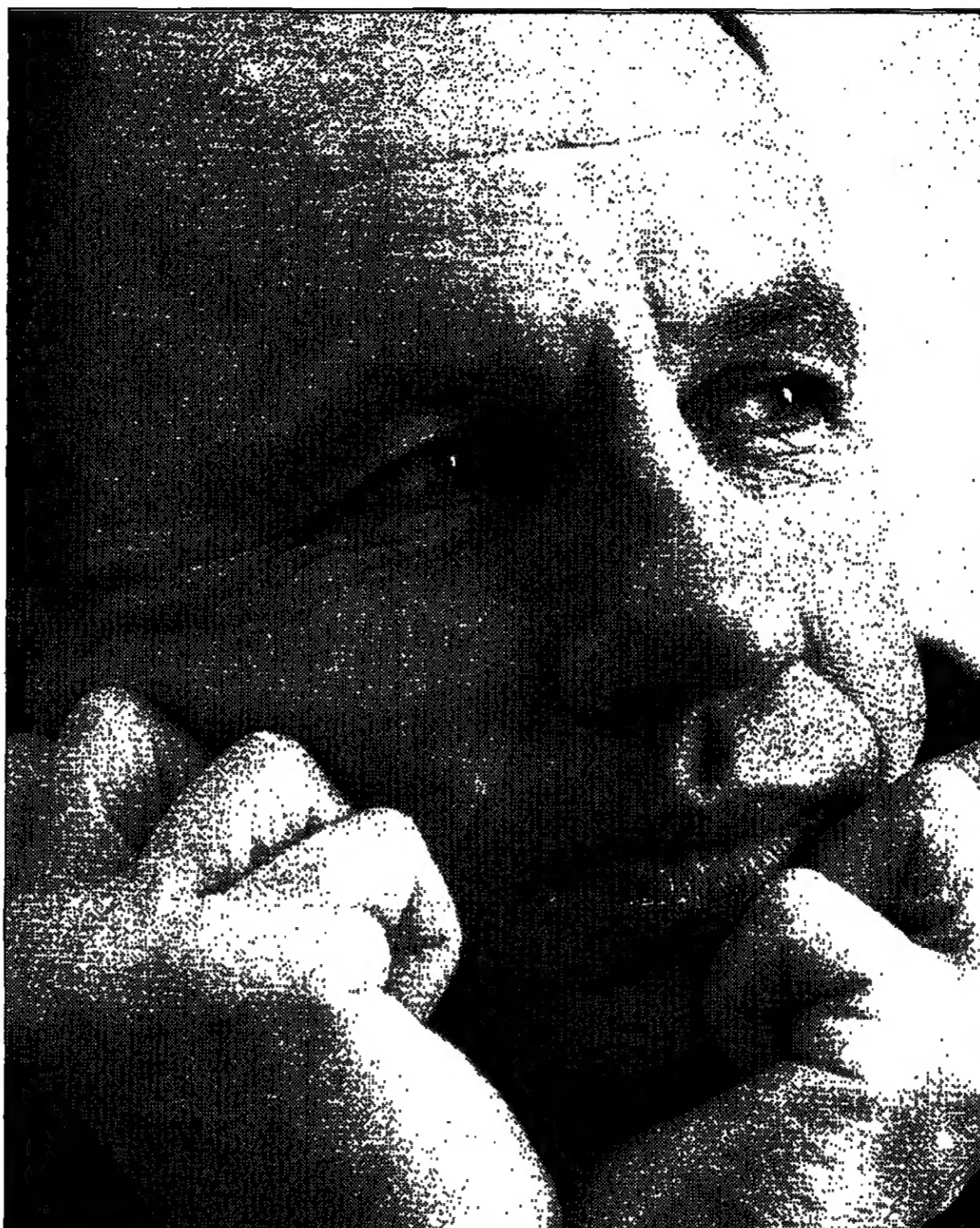
However, Labour officials said the proposals were passed 22 to 2. The document states clearly the pre-manifesto programme "will be put to a full ballot of all individual members to provide a firm pledge... to support and deliver Labour's programme. There must be no doubt whatever at the end of this process that the party and its constituent parts accept and agree this programme."

Both John Prescott, the deputy leader, and Robin Cook, the policy supremo, endorsed the plan as a chance to consult more widely.

Mr Blair described the document, Road to the Manifesto, as his contract with Britain, adding that the innovative process "is high-risk, high gain".

The manifesto will be published in June, put to the party conference including the unions, without the possibility of amendment in October, and then to ballot around Christmas.

For the left Diane Abbott, who voted against the plan along with Dennis Skinner, said: "I am very concerned at drawing up a manifesto that goes to conference which cannot be amended, but offered only on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. I can only assume the



Former anti-apartheid activist John Lloyd (above) is not fit to be Labour's parliamentary candidate in Exeter, the

NEC said yesterday in a ruling which could lead to a rift with the local party. Mr Lloyd gave evidence to South

African police against another activist hanged in 1964. Report, page 3

Plaudits for Dearing revolution

Donald MacLeod and John Carvel

THE most fundamental shake-up of education and training since the war was launched yesterday when the Government, with all-party support, embraced sweeping recommendations for change for the 16-19 age group.

From next year young people will be able to follow broader sixth form courses, mixing A levels with vocational subjects, while 14-year-olds disaffected with school will have the chance to take practical courses in the workplace or at further education colleges. All students will have to learn communication and numeracy skills in a package which brings England and Wales more closely in tune with Scotland and the rest of Europe.

National framework for all qualifications: academic, applied, vocational.

14-year-olds able to take applied and vocational courses at college or workplace training.

Keep A levels alongside new broad Baccalaureate-type National Diploma.

Scrap AS levels in favour of exam at 17 covering first half of A level course.

Simpler assessment/more rigorous testing of GCSEs, renamed "Applied A levels".

Relaunch Youth Training, improve careers guidance.

The present jumble of 16,000 qualifications will be streamlined into three distinct pathways - academic, "applied" subjects at school or college, and workplace vocational courses.

The reforms, proposed by the Government's senior education adviser, Sir Ron Dearing, and endorsed by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will go ahead whatever the general election result thanks to Sir Ron's careful groundwork in building a consensus from the right wing of the Con-



Sir Ron Dearing

Eurostar makes hash of poster campaign pushing Amsterdam

Richard Afeek

WHEN Eurostar decided to advertise the speedy access of its trains to the Amsterdam high life, it failed to take account of protests from the Dutch tourist authorities.

Now a poster pointing to the delights of the city's drug scene has been withdrawn from London Underground stations because, according to Eurostar, people had "misconstrued" the image of Van Gogh smoking a joint.

The advert is one of a tongue-in-cheek series on European "Secret Cities". Lille is associated with De Gaulle; Brussels is represented by its famous urinating cherub.

The Amsterdam advertisement showed the artist with a well-packed joint

and a cannabis leaf prominently displayed.

A Eurostar spokesman said the advertisement had been "misconstrued by various sources" who complained about its encouragement of drug tourism, which Amsterdam is trying to curb. "Because people interpreted it that way, we thought it best to withdraw it," he said. "The initial idea was harmless."

But the advert would be hard to construe as anything other than an invitation to go and smoke hashish, said a spokeswoman for the Netherlands Tourism Board whose director, Theo Lingmont, had complained to Eurostar.

"The implication was very clear and unmissable. The textline also hinted strongly at the drugs," she said. "The city has so much more to offer."

Inside
Britain
Health workers must do more to penetrate the "inner world" of mentally ill patients, an inquiry reported
5

World News
Alain Madelin, the rebel former French finance minister, is tipped to replace Valéry Giscard d'Estaing as UDF leader
6

City
More than 2,000 jobs are to go at United Utilities and 1,900 at Pilkington, but Jaguar will create up to 6,000
11

Sport
The American horse, Cigar, won the Dubai World Cup, as the Arab home team failed to show. Britain's Pentire was fourth
13

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
Crossword 15 Weather 16
Radio 16 Television 16
9 770261 907347

Beef crisis threatens EU summit

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Michael White



THE Government last night grudgingly welcomed the European Commission's offer of financial compensation to ease the cost of slaughtering BSE-tainted cattle, which could cost nearly £3 billion over the next five years.

But ministers and officials on both sides of the Channel were far from confident that a deal on the scale of the likely cull could be struck before the EU inter-governmental conference starts tomorrow in Turin. The meeting could be badly damaged by a symbolic test of European solidarity over mad cow disease.

With the two sides haggling over the legal basis for compensatory payments, the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, last night revealed that slaughtering up to 15,000 30-month-old cows a week would cost £2.8 billion over five years.

The European Commission yesterday unanimously endorsed its worldwide ban on British beef and by-products, but promised to review the move within six weeks. The move came as the Dutch government announced it had ordered the destruction of 64,000 British cattle in the Netherlands and was advising consumers not to eat British beef.

Both Britain's European commissioners, Neil Kinnock and Sir Leon Brittan, voted for the ban, claiming they had between them won significant concessions, particularly over the six-week review. Sir Leon drafted the compensatory clause.

But the concession did not placate Downing Street, where officials called the ban "disappointing and disproportionate". They pledged to reverse it even as they fought for a compensation package.

Frank Fischer, the Austrian agriculture commissioner, told the European Parliament that the commission would expect enforcement of the ban to be rigorous. "There

are no blank cheques, nor should the impression be given that we are just waiting to pay out."

John Major said: "We do not think there is a public health problem with British beef. We have said so and the scientists have said so. What has happened is collective hysteria, partly media, partly Opposition, partly European."

"What we need to do to restore public confidence is to have the European ban lifted so that world export markets are open and produce a package that will reassure people."

Mr Fischer denied trying to punish anyone. He told MEPs: "The ban is quite clearly a provisional measure which we hope will be lifted as soon as possible once the necessary measures have been taken. We call upon the UK to act as soon as possible to produce these proposals so we can all work together."

The commission's panel of veterinary experts from all 15 states will convene again in six weeks' time and may visit Britain to review the measures and recommend further steps.

The ban is affecting other EU states, with the imposition of total bans on all European meat by Egypt and China.

Spills of beef war, page 4; Letters, page 8

WINNER SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT OSCAR - JOHN LASSETER

"THIS IS THE MOST FUN IN TOWN"

"IT'S UNSENTIMENTAL POLITICALLY INCORRECT & BREATHTAKINGLY REALISED"

Toy Story

NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE

Sketch

Put the Cabinet out of its misery



Simon Hoggart

A CULL of the Cabinet is an attractive idea, and would do much to restore confidence in British politicians after the recent panic. It should be carried out humanely: a last meal of pâté de foie gras, beef Wellington, and a decent claret. Then the stun gun in the neck and a deflagration in the presence of European officials. British politics would be declared safe for public consumption. It's the cows I feel sorry for. Luckily they don't yet have their own cable TV channel. "Good evening. Here is the news. We're all going to die, die I tell you! Oh, this just in, apparently we're not going to die... or at least not all of us. Stay with us for Moonlight." In the meantime, it's worth doing an early check of who's done well and who's failed in the beef imbroglio. The chief loser is probably Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. Mr Dorrell is intelligent and honest — the two attributes least admired in Conservative ministers. Looked at from the point of view of a Tory backbencher, he made the huge initial mistake of insisting in Cabinet that we be told there might be a link between BSE and CJD. The public was supposed to react to this candour by saying: "Gosh, that's reassuring. Minister — clearly the risk is minuscule. But thanks for telling us anyway!" Instead they stopped buying beef. Mr Dorrell blamed the public. "It isn't the cows who are mad, it's the people," he said. So he has made the two most fundamental mistakes of modern politics: attacking the voters, and being unlucky. He will not be quickly forgiven. Douglas Hogg has also had a terrible week. ("Hog" is northern dialect for "young sheep", so his surname means "Shepherd", as does mine. Another variation is "Howard", so my

family and I have the humiliation of sharing a name with three members of this Cabinet.) Mr Hogg scared the landed farmers on the Tory benches by seeming to demand a mass cull of cattle. Then Ken Clarke got back from Africa. (Did you see the pictures of him in Soweto, shaking condom and sunglasses? Advice to adolescents: practise safe sex, and never wear a six-foot condom with eye holes in the end.) Mr Hogg was overruled by the Chancellor. So the crisis worsened, and it turned out that he might have been right after all. But will he be forgiven for being correct? Of course not. John Major made himself look even sillier by blaming the Opposition on Tuesday. I sensed a change in the public mood when last month he blamed Robin Cook for the Scott Report. He is losing the one thing the public admired: his honesty. He was always dreary and uninspiring. Now he seems like just another political sleazeball. Gavin Strang, the Labour agriculture spokesman, did himself some good by being calm. Mr Strang looks as if he knows one end of a cow from the other, whereas Harriet Harman may not. She has been trying to win back support for the Shadow Cabinet elections this summer. Her attacks on the Government infuriated Tory MPs, who appeared to imagine that it is the Opposition's job to excuse the Government for all its errors, in the interests of national unity. Among the winners will, as ever, be the farmers. They will demand compensation for having stuffed their livestock with rancid and possibly poisonous detritus and then sold it to us. No other industry would get this treatment. Mr Strang compensates Mrs if they sold us poisonous chocolate? Or Ford, if the brakes failed on their cars? The time may come when we ask whether we really need mass agriculture. Almost all food can be produced more cheaply elsewhere. We could convert the prairies of England back to meadows and hedgerows, with a few country parks and golf courses. We'd save a fortune and the country would be much better off.

Israeli judge rejects insanity plea as convicted zealot Yigal Amir warns court of 'rivers of blood'

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

YIGAL AMIR yelled, "The state of Israel is a monstrosity," as he was bundled out of court yesterday to begin a life sentence for killing the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin. To most Israelis, Amir himself is a monster. "He is unworthy of anything except pity in that he has lost all semblance of humanity," the presiding judge, Edmond Levy, said. Amir showed little emotion as he was convicted. A slight figure in a white sweater, surrounded by guards, he even permitted himself one of the enigmatic grins that have infuriated television audiences during the five-month trial. "Everything I did, I did for the people of Israel, for the Torah of Israel, for the land of Israel," he said calmly. For the religious student, aged 25, the life sentence was a punishment. "The court made its intention clear by sentencing Amir to an additional six years for wounding one of his bodyguards. Amir made no attempt to deny that he fired the fatal shots that killed Mr Rabin as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv on November 4. A religious zealot, Amir said his action was guided by God, and by Jewish law. He claimed he had aimed to paralyse rather than kill the prime minister, because of the government's peace accords with the Palestinians. It was unforgivable in his view for a Jew to give up part of the God-given land of Israel. It was partly Amir's cool admission of guilt and utter lack of remorse that led the Tel Aviv court to deliver its damning verdict yesterday. Judge Levy dismissed Amir's defence plea that Amir was mentally unbalanced. Although psychiatric examination had shown "narcissistic



Yigal Amir, flanked by court guards. After yesterday's verdict, he said: 'I committed this act and I am willing to pay the price' PHOTOGRAPH: NATI HARNIK

and schizoid elements" in his personality, his intellectual capacity was very high. "He devised and planned the action with which he is charged over a long period of time. The action was carried out in a rational fashion, and in accordance with his world view," Judge Levy said. "The judge concluded: 'With premeditation and incredible

composure, he decided that killing the late prime minister is the last way in which to stop the peace process which was not to his liking, and he followed this path to the end. As his guilt was pronounced, Amir briefly buried his head in his hands. Then, asked if he had anything to say, said: 'All the power is in the hands of the government.

For three years they used it cynically. The little man could only demonstrate and raise his voice, but even that was barred in recent years. "For this reason, I had no choice but to commit this act even though it ran against the grain of my own personality, because the damage to the people of Israel is irreversible and we already see the result

on the street. Everything they have done in the last three years will lead to rivers of blood. "I committed this act and I am willing to pay the price, but those who caused thousands of people to die will never pay the price. They are protected by the system." He added: "This was a show trial."

Amir had insisted he was applying the Halachic (Jewish religious) principle of *rodef*, which broadly permits killing in self-defence or in defence of another. The argument was dismissed yesterday as "twisted and sickening". One of Amir's lawyers, Jonathan Ray Goldberg, indicated there would be an appeal to the supreme court.

First night

Hymn to romantic agony falls flat

Michael Billington

he is a thoughtful narcissist gradually opened up to true feeling. What we actually see is a happy, sexually fulfilled man slowly being torn apart. The show is a hymn to what Mario Praz called "the romantic agony". While that may be perfectly valid, it does not exactly have a tonic effect on Sondheim's music and lyrics. His score is surprisingly monotonous. Even his lyrics, except in the case of the mockingly ironic army officers, lack their wonted pungency and wit. The best reason for seeing the show is Maria Friedman's Fosca. It is not just that, with her swept-back hair and ghostly pallor, she manages to persuade us she is plain. What she captures, particularly in the first half, is the demonic nature of Fosca's love: her hands ominously flutter in the air and when she offers Giorgio a flower it is as if she is presenting a poisoned chalice. Friedman not only sings superbly but gives a superb display of controlled neurosis. Michael Ball as the entranced hero deftly suggests an innocent abroad in a world of feverish passion and Helen Hobson is sensually powerful as his epistolary mistress. Sams' production is also beautifully designed by Paul Farnsworth with atmosphere evoked through semi-transparent burnished-copper screens. But, although the show has a kind of agonised integrity, it lacks the authentic heartache, yearning and capacity to induce tears that permeates just about every other Sondheim musical. This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper.

Drink-driving Tory MP fined over road accident

Angella Johnson

FORMER Tory minister Sir Nicholas Scott was yesterday banned from driving for a year and ordered to pay £900 for motoring offences, following an accident in which a 10-year-old boy was trapped between two cars. Sir Nicholas, aged 62, was fined £250 after being found guilty of failing to stop after his Volvo shunted a parked car in Chelsea, west London, last June. He was fined £200 with £450 costs, and banned from driving for a year, after he admitted drink-driving during the incident. The former social security minister, who was narrowly selected to stand for the new safe seat of Kensington and Chelsea last November, left Horseferry Road magistrates' court, in central London, without comment. Magistrate Peter Davies told him: "You had no idea what damage might have been caused to the car in front of you or what possible harm could have been caused to the child."



Sir Nicholas: Failed to stop after shunt trapped boy, 3

He claimed he was not used to the car and had pulled forward, but he did not think anything more than a minor bump had occurred. However, the vehicle had pushed a Volvo estate in front, trapping Thibault Perreard, a 10-year-old boy, between it and a Jaguar. Yes Perreard, a Swiss banker, said he tried to free his son as passers-by shouted and tried to make Sir Nicholas reverse his car to release the child. He said he was later unable to find the driver. The child was taken to hospital where a doctor found he had some reddening on his lower back but was otherwise unhurt. His pushchair had been crushed and Mr Perreard was slightly injured. Police interviewed Sir Nicholas two hours after the accident, at the nearby home of his doctor. They had received a telephone call to say Sir Nicholas was there waiting to be interviewed. PC Phillip Logan said the MP told him he had drunk a couple of glasses of wine and was later given a glass of whisky by his doctor friend. Sir Nicholas admitted driv-

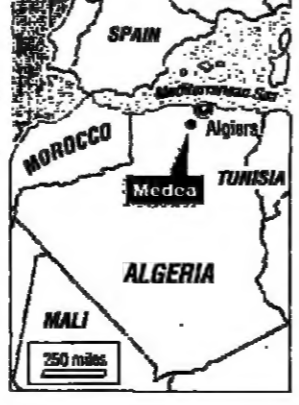
ing with 96mg of alcohol in 100mls of blood, 18mg above the legal limit, but denied falling to stop and then leaving the scene of an accident. He insisted he only left the scene after being assured the child was unhurt, in an attempt to avoid a scene. His secretary remained with the car. "I didn't think there was any doubt about my identity. I assumed people knew who I was. I had no reason to believe anyone was injured."

Barbara Lord, Sir Nicholas's constituency association agent, had no comment to make on the sentence. The court case is the latest public humiliation for Sir Nicholas, once hailed by Time magazine as a "future leader of the world". In particular, he had a remarkable fall-out with his daughter, Victoria, over civil rights for the disabled. Sir Nicholas, a former minister for the disabled, admitted misleading MPs when he denied his department had been involved in wrecking tactics designed to kill the Disability Bill in 1994. Victoria, an outspoken and indefatigable lobbyist for disabled rights, denounced her father's actions and joined the calls for him to resign. He was condemned to the backbenches in John Major's cabinet reshuffle two months later, but later earned the consolation of a knighthood.

Islamists kidnap monks

Paul Webster in Paris and Rachid Khiri of AP in Algiers

THE French government has made an urgent appeal for its nationals to leave Algeria or risk attacks by Islamist terrorists after Algerian gunmen kidnapped seven Trappist monks early yesterday. The monks were seized at 1.30am in their remote monastery by suspected members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which was behind last year's bombings in France between July and November. French officials said they feared for the monks' safety. Seven French priests and nuns have been murdered in Algeria since 1993, along with 25 other French nationals. The kidnapping followed a prolonged gun battle between government and rebel forces in the mountainous Medea region, 40 miles south of Algiers. The newspaper el-Watan said 17 guerrillas were killed near the monastery, Notre Dame de l'Atlas, in the remote village of Tibhirine. Pierre Claverie, bishop of Oran, said the kidnappers gained entry by asking to see



a monk, aged 62, who is a doctor. They appeared to want help for a wounded comrade. "They took seven monks who were sleeping in the main building, including the doctor who is very sick," the bishop said. "Two other monks were not kidnapped." A spokesman for the Algerian Catholic diocese said there had been no contact with the kidnappers, nor any ransom demand. Security for the 300 foreign priests and nuns in Algeria had been increased.

The archbishop of Algiers, Henri Teissier, issued a plea to the kidnappers to spare the monks' lives. "We place them in the hands of God's divine mercy... so that those who abducted them respect their lives because all life belongs to God," he said. The French foreign ministry condemned the "odious act" against missionaries. "Despite the dangers, they continue to pursue their mission among the Algerian population... of generosity and charity," the foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, said. As Algerian authorities started a manhunt for the kidnappers, who were described as a "criminal gang", there was anxiety in France that the GIA could renew its bombings. The assault on the monastery came a day after eight Muslim fundamentalists were arrested in Nice. Two more were detained yesterday. The arrests followed threats that the GIA was preparing to revenge the killing of four Algerians by French security forces in Marseilles after the hijacking of an Air France airliner in Algiers at Christmas 1994.

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Journalists win fight on disclosure of sources

Clare Dyer

JUDGES' powers to jail or fine journalists for refusing to reveal their sources were radically curbed yesterday by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. It held by an 11 to seven majority that judges' wide powers to order journalists to disclose the name of a source "in

the interests of justice" were "not necessary in a democratic society". This may force the Government to change the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which allows for disclosure of sources if necessary for national security, prevention of disorder or crime, or in the interests of justice. In future, judges will have to give greater weight to the importance of freedom of speech.

ating children loose along the models... Clarke... Virginia Bottom... Cricket... It seems the Devil himself would be wrong to invade...

Tensions ease between Brussels and Whitehall as Kinnock and Brittan claim credit for winning key concessions from commission

Europe pledges aid to beef farmers

EC promises to review its BSE measures in six weeks

Stephen Bates in Brussels

NEL Kinnock and Sir Leon Brittan, the two British European commissioners, were claiming credit in Brussels last night for substantially modifying the ban on British beef imposed unanimously yesterday.

The two key concessions wrung from the commission during the course of its meeting were a review of the ban in six weeks, and the unspecified promise of financial compensation for farmers: a vital formula to ease the tension between Whitehall and Brussels.

The package of measures adopted unanimously by the 30 European commissioners imposes an immediate worldwide ban on all British beef, including pharmaceutical and cosmetic by-products, semen, and foodstuffs with beef extracts in them, including some sweets and biscuits.

Britain will have to adopt a package of further measures to eradicate the disease —

Officials said last night that the commission and the British Government were reaching out hands towards each other to reach agreement on what extra measures the EU will deem necessary to rescue the British beef industry.

Yesterday's statement by Franz Fischler, the agriculture commissioner, was noticeably more emollient in tone than his comments earlier in the week.

He talked of collegiality and solidarity in solving the problem together.

It was clear also that at the forefront of the commission's concerns was the spread of blanket bans on all European meat by China and Egypt and the urgent need to protect farmers and preserve the agricultural economies of other member states.

Curiously though, Germany is to be required to reopen its borders to admit meat from Switzerland, which also has BSE among its herds, though on a much lesser scale than Britain.

Mr Fischler refused to specify what additional measures the commission was looking for from Britain, or to outline what the order of compensation offered from EU funds might be.

If the commission were to use the intervention system, which is used to surmount surplus food products and which is probably the most obvious source of funding, the aid might be quite limited.

Under the rules, the food is supposed to be of saleable quality — which the beef clearly is not — and would only apply to male cattle under two years old.

Mr Fischler said: "There are no blank cheques, nor should the impression be given that we are just waiting to pay out."

"We need to talk about the British proposals first and then we will be prepared to discuss the funding. I cannot speculate about amounts. It is very damaging to do that."

"We have never had these measures will only apply for six weeks. In six weeks' time an assessment is going to be made of the implementation of the measures."

There are other possible sources of funding, and the agriculture budget is currently underpinned.

Mr Fischler, with a clear eye to Britain's Eurosceptics, said wryly: "The common agricultural policy has funds and perhaps in future the critics of the CAP might be a little more careful in the criticisms they make."

'Some of the remarks this week against Britain have bordered on racism'

slaughtering was unspecified but clearly part of the commission's thinking — and will have to report forthrightly to Brussels.

In six weeks' time the EU's committee of experts, which recommended the ban earlier this week, will meet again to review progress, though not necessarily to lift the ban.

It was claimed that Mr Kinnock had pressed for a time limit for the review of whether the British measures are adequate, and that Sir Leon — working in concert with his colleagues — had drafted the wording of the financial statement while the meeting was going on.

The British team was particularly pleased with the compromise which they claim was achieved in the face of outright hostility from other member states, caused by aggravation with the British Government's handling of the crisis and long pent-up annoyance at ministers' hostility to Europe.

One British official in the commission said: "Some of the remarks made this week against Britain have bordered on racism."



Beefed up... A load of Dutch beefburgers arriving at McDonald's in Edinburgh yesterday to go on sale today. The fast food chain has banned British beef. PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

Hogg says cattle slaughter could cost £550m

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE agriculture minister, Douglas Hogg, yesterday conceded that plans to cull 4.5 million older cows could cost the Treasury more than £550 million a year in compensation, or possibly less with European Union funding.

A selective cull is being pressed on the Government by the National Farmers Union, and is a front runner for cabinet endorsement.

Mr Hogg, along with Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was speaking at a day-long joint session of the Commons agriculture and health select committees, where both effectively conceded there would have to be a mass, if selective, slaughter to restore domestic and EU consumer confidence.

Government scientists repeatedly tried to reassure MPs that since regulations were revised in 1989 there was no evidence BSE could cause serious illness — but

they said final scientific reassurance might take two years.

However, John Pattison, chairman of the Government's advisory committee on beef, admitted it had been disturbing that unannounced visits to British abattoirs last year found strong evidence of rules being flouted on the need to remove affected tissue from carcasses.

Mr Hogg was unable to say how many rules breaches there had been since surveillance was handed over to councils to the Meat Hygiene

Service. It also appeared no abattoir had been prosecuted.

But he denied Labour claims that deregulation of the industry in the early 1980s was responsible for BSE.

Mr Dorrell said the Government believed it had done everything necessary to make British beef acceptably safe.

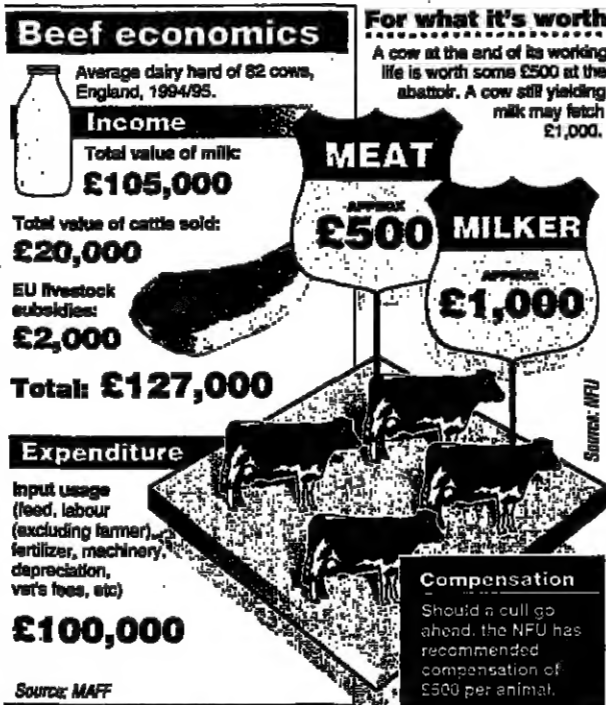
But he added: "Yesterday the argument moved on; the question is no longer the safety of British beef... the question now is consumer confidence."

Tory MPs showed frustration with scientists and ministers for not using plainer language to tell the public BSE is safe, while Plaid Cymru MP Ieuan Wyn Jones demanded: "How long will we have to wait until the Government makes an announcement?"

Labour's Dale Campbell-Saunders accused the Government of a cover-up by refusing to fund Harsh Narang's research into a live test for BSE. He said this was because ministers did not want him walking round abattoirs doing tests.

Mr Dorrell said this was "a grotesque misrepresentation".

Tory MP Edward Leigh, who attacked Mr Hogg for falling to give a clear line on slaughtering, then warned: "There will be a statement made about some kind of partial slaughter policy, but then up will jump [BSE expert and government critic] Professor Lacey or one of our other 'friends' who will say 'this is far too little, too late'. They will start undermining public confidence again, and we will be back where we were."



Swiss controls 'contained outbreak'

Second worst-hit country in Europe links 207 mad cow cases directly to British imports. Alex Duval-Smith reports

CURRENT cases of mad cow disease abroad can be traced either to animals directly imported from Britain or to feed produced in the UK between 1982 and 1988, according to scientists who have studied outbreaks in Switzerland — the second worst-hit country in Europe.

Swiss scientists and politicians are confident they have contained BSE, but they continue to impose stringent controls, including spot checks on feed manufacturers and the isolation of calves born to stricken animals.

Anne-Florence Pignat, deputy director of the Swiss Veterinary Authority, said: "As a

biologist I cannot say I have 100 per cent proof.

"But with the research we have done and the statistics we hold, I can confidently say that BSE has ended here."

The Swiss scientists concede that their sample, while being the biggest in continental Europe, is still considerably smaller than Britain's. Out of 2.5 million head of cattle, there has been 207 reported cases of mad cow disease since 1980.

Swiss farming methods are similar to those in Britain: the country's geography, a food policy which aims at self-sufficiency and a milk-thirsty chocolate industry have com-

bined to create an intensive bovine farming culture.

Even though there have been 21 slaughters linked to suspected BSE this year alone, the year-on-year increase is sharp decline.

The animals which were diagnosed this year and last were all more than six years old.

Ms Pignat said this indicates that they ingested British-made feed containing animal protein — drawn, for example, from sheep brains infected with scrapie — before it was banned in Switzerland in 1990.

To ensure that farmers do not revert, illegally, to using cheap animal-based protein to secure a high yield, Swiss veterinary authorities carry out spot checks on the mills which mix cattle feed.

Ms Pignat said: "It appears that feed producers are respecting the law. We have

only found traces of animal protein twice. Both times it has transpired that this was residue from batches of feed for poultry or sheep.

While there is speculation in Britain that BSE may be transmitted from mother to calf, Miss Pignat said there was no evidence of this in Switzerland.

She said: "As a precaution, we isolate the calves born to BSE animals, ban them from sale and keep them under observation. So far, none have developed BSE."

"This does not rule out the phenomenon in Britain, where thousands more calves can be studied."

Swiss scientists believe if statistics covering the age of BSE-afflicted cattle continue to show an incubation period of five to seven years, their country will be free of the disease by 2000.

Defence chiefs launch code to fight racial discrimination

David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

ATTEMPTS to end racial discrimination in the armed forces, which will be embodied in a new code of practice, will be announced today to counter harsh criticism expected in a report by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Defence chiefs and the CRE will sign a joint "action plan agreement" to establish the code on ethnic recruitment and career development. The army intends to appoint equal opportunity advisers in every unit.

Military officials hope to rectify their persistent failure to attract members of the ethnic minorities at a time when the forces are drastically

short of manpower — a shortfall of 2,500 in the infantry alone. Last year the navy recruited 0.6 per cent from ethnic minorities, the army 1 per cent and the RAF 1.2 per cent.

The CRE will publish a report today on a formal investigation of racial discrimination in the Household Cavalry.

The investigation was

prompted by the case of Corporal Jake Malcolm, an engineer who applied in 1982 for a transfer to the Life Guards, only to be told they did not welcome black soldiers.

He lodged a complaint with the CRE.

The army took up his case and awarded him £6,500 compensation. He stayed on and is now a sergeant in a tank regiment.

Mothers turn to High Court to force clean-up of beach 'playground'

TWO mothers yesterday asked the High Court to force a clean-up of a beach which is their children's "park and playground".

Rachel Shelley, aged 21, and Sara Delaney, aged 28, from the village of Portloman on the north Cornish coast, accuse Carrick district council of unlawfully refusing last June to serve an abatement notice on South West Water,

which is responsible for sewage disposal in the area.

Documents showed the authority recognised the beach was polluted because South West Water had not placed screens over outfalls.

Rhodri Price Lewis, for Carrick council, said that there was no evidence when the council decided not to issue a notice that there was a statutory nuisance.

He disputed the amount of sewage debris coming ashore.

The council's environmental officer had reported that less than 1kg a day of debris had been collected on 100,000 square metres of beach.

Mr Lewis said of council members: "They are not burying their heads in the sand. They want the matter to be further investigated so they can take a fully informed decision."

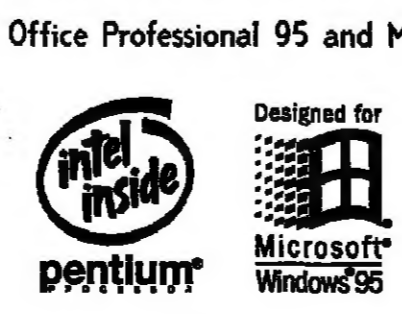
The hearing continues.

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Inquiry calls for more checks on dangerous patients after murders by 'pleasant' misfit, David Brindle reports



Inquiry chairman Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and victims Arthur and Shirley Wilson

Getting into the mind of a killer

Health workers 'must look closer at mentally ill before release'

HEALTH workers must do more to penetrate the hidden "inner world" of potentially dangerous mentally ill patients before they are released into the community, an inquiry into the killing of three Suffolk villagers said yesterday.

There must be a far deeper understanding of such people's backgrounds by professionals with "more than a nodding acquaintance with the patient's childhood experiences and development through adolescence", according to Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, the inquiry chairman.

The inquiry has also called

for an overhaul of the mental health review tribunal system, by which detained patients can win discharge. Jason Mitchell, who carried out the killings, had been given a deferred conditional discharge within 18 months of a previous attack for which he had been charged with attempted murder.

Mitchell, now 25, is in Rampton top security hospital after being jailed for life for the killings in December 1994 of Arthur and Shirley Wilson, a retired couple, and his own father, Robert, in the village of Bramford, near Ipswich. The Wilsons were strangled after Mitchell, who

had walked out of the Easton House rehabilitation unit at St Clement's hospital, Ipswich. Five days later, he strangled his father and dismembered his body at the nearby Mitchell family home.

Unlike the verdicts on some other recent care-in-the-community tragedies, the inquiry report says no individual other than Mitchell can be blamed, and there was no question of shortage of resources.

The report's other main criticism is that there was an unrealistic view of Mitchell's ability to cope in the community, given his persistently poor social relations and reg-



Jason Mitchell: showed no awareness of the terror and suffering of his victims

ular resort to illicit drugs. Christopher Wilson, the dead couple's son, said: "It is quite clear from the report that there has been a catalogue of errors and lack of judgment."

Mental health pressure groups, including Mind and Sane, welcomed the call for reform of the tribunal system.

Sir Louis said the main lesson of the inquiry, which has made 49 recommendations, was the need for much improved sharing of information among agencies working with the mentally ill.

The Case of Jason Mitchell; Duckworth, The Old Piano Factory, 48 Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB, £19.99

Young man's journey to triple murder

WHEN interviewed by the inquiry panel in Rampton hospital, Jason Mitchell is said to have seemed "skilled and pleasant" and to have shown no awareness of the terror and suffering of his victims.

His description of a poor relationship with his father is contradicted by the evidence of others who recalled the two as having been close and the son as having been spoiled.

Mitchell, youngest of five children, was about nine months old when his mother left home. His father, Robert, gave up work at a flour mill to care for the family. By the time Jason was eight, the elder children had left home.

According to Jason, his father became embittered, withdrawn and sometimes violent, leaving him to take over household tasks. Schoolwork suffered.

However, Fiona Mitchell, a sister, told the inquiry that Jason had grown wild and difficult to control. As a teenager he had stolen money from their father to buy drugs. When she had last seen the two together, seven months before the killings — they had talked cheerfully.

Jason, who was 24 when he committed the killings, had been caught for shoplifting as young as eight and placed in a special school. His educational record was characterised by truancy, anti-social behaviour and clashes with authority.

He first appeared in court at 18, charged with theft and taking a vehicle. He was first reported as behaving "strangely" while on remand in custody two years later. Sentenced to two years' youth



Robert Mitchell... left to bring up five children

custody for offences including robbery, he was ultimately sent to the Feltham young offenders' institution.

He was diagnosed as mentally ill after he attacked a church cleaner in Epsom in February 1980, but failure by psychiatrists to agree that he had schizophrenia, and failure to piece together his past, left him able to leave his hospital placement on December 8, 1994.

Eleven days later, he was arrested for the killings.

In a remarkable statement to the inquiry, Christopher Wilson, son of the couple Mitchell killed, said on behalf of his family: "Every agency has gone into great detail to explain their role of the care and control of Jason Mitchell and their aspirations for him."

"We must not forget that he is now locked away for a long, long time. He is also a victim; and I say to those agencies: you have all failed him."

Steps called for in report

- Crown Prosecution Service should circulate full details of serious incidents involving mentally disordered people, irrespective of outcome of criminal proceedings.
- Assessments by professionals other than psychiatrists and nurses should be taken fully into account.
- Mental health review tribunals should be reassessed in context of full review of Mental Health Act 1983.
- Medical members of tribunals dealing with restricted patients should ideally be forensic psychiatrists. Psychologists should be considered for further tribunal place.
- Police should agree "missing patient" procedures with local hospitals and social services, and should inquire into repeated absconding.

Silence of the Lambs 'may have influenced Mitchell'

IT is "conceivable" that Jason Mitchell identified with Hannibal Lecter, the fictional serial killer in the novel and film *Silence of the Lambs*, the report says.

Parallels existed between Mitchell's actions and those of the main characters in both *Silence of the Lambs*, and *Red Dragon*, an earlier novel by the same author, Thomas Harris.

Mitchell had both books, and watched a video of *Silence of the Lambs* while staying at a hostel in Felixstowe run by the mental health charity Mind. He loaned the books to another resident.

The significance of the books and film needed to be treated with great caution. The report noted one psychiatrist's view that Mitchell wanted to believe he was influenced.

His own comments appeared ambiguous. He told

the inquiry team: "I needed to make an impact killing — it had a big influence on me and the rest of society because he was my own father."

"In *Silence of the Lambs* he says he killed his parents when he was six years old. It had no bearing at all on my killing my father. If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well. I'd had an impact kill. I regret I didn't finish what I'd planned and kill more people."

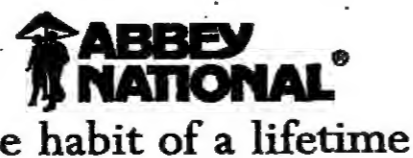
The report notes similarities between the case and *Red Dragon* and *Silence of the Lambs*. But the two inquiry panel members who interviewed Mr Mitchell at Rampton say: "Both of us noted how reference to *Silence of the Lambs* and serial killing spontaneously came into the content of Jason Mitchell's interviews. There are also many points of difference between [his] behaviour and the stories of the novels."

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6 WORLD NEWS

Bitter Giscard's adieu threatens Gaullist priorities

Vengeful rebel seeks UDF throne

Paul Webster in Paris

ALAIN MADELIN, the rebel French finance minister removed from government in August after a provocative outburst, has become a favourite to take over the leadership of the rightwing Union for French Democracy (UDF) from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Mr Madelin is likely to seek political revenge against the Gaullist prime minister, Alain Juppé, who sacked him after his attack on "cosseted" civil servants and people on income support.

Mr Madelin's triumphant return to parliament in a Brittany by-election, and his best-selling political analysis, When Ostriches Raise their Heads, has made him the most popular figure on the non-Gaullist right.

Members of the UDF — a multi-party coalition with 12 ministers in government — will vote for their new chairman in Lyons on Sunday. The former defence minister François Léotard is Mr Madelin's main rival.

The biggest shake-up on the right since Mr Giscard formed the UDF in 1978 has become a more serious threat to Gaullist priorities than the revival of the Socialist Party.

Opinion polls show Mr Madelin, aged 50, is the favourite to lead the UDF. The coalition has more than 200 MPs and controls most French regions and some big cities.

Mr Madelin's ultra-liberal ideas on the economy, and the Thatcherite distrust of state welfare and entrenched bureaucracy which ruffled Mr Juppé, are refinements of an extreme rightwing past.

The UDF's complex political structure, which encompasses all the elements of the non-Gaullist right except the racist National Front, has been its main obstacle to becoming France's biggest political movement, despite its controlling the senate.

Mr Giscard's epic political battles with Jacques Chirac over more than 20 years of uneasy coalition have left him embittered and disillusioned.

Before he gathered together the so-called centrist parties in 1978 more than 1 million people bought his political credo, French Democracy, with its promise of a caring France and a new Europe.

But his claim that two out of three voters preferred a centrist consensus to resist socialism and Gaullism was proved doubly wrong by François Mitterrand's presidential success in 1981 and Mr Chirac's election in 1985. Mr Giscard wanted to run

for the presidency again last year, but was let down by key leaders. His unrelenting role as guardian of European priorities and monetarist values was not enough to compensate for the humiliation of playing a secondary role.

"Giscard thinks that no one has his stature, so he is not going to name the next chairman," a UDF deputy said. "Having said that, he has less enmity for Madelin than Léotard."

Both contenders come from the Republican Party, a movement created by Mr Giscard to put a brake on Charles de Gaulle during the 1960s. There has been hostility between Mr Giscard and Mr Léotard, aged 57, ever since the former chose the future defence minister to run the Republican Party, the biggest section of the UDF.

Mr Léotard played heavily on his youth in attempts to unseat Mr Giscard, but the quarrel has gone on so long that Mr Léotard now looks like a veteran.

Mr Juppé cannot hope that a Madelin defeat will avoid further division in the governing coalition, because Mr Léotard — who has little time for President Chirac — is backed by the highest-ranking minister, François Bayrou, who is in charge of education.

South glimpses hidden costs of EU benefits

In Mediterranean countries, doubts about the course set by Maastricht are overshadowing gains of the past, reports John Hooper from Rome, while Italy keeps rebelliousness under wraps



Popular Party won this month's Spanish general election, has made it clear that, if he can form a coalition, his government will take a more Gaullist line than Felipe Gonzalez and his Socialists.

In Greece, there may be bipartisan support for unification but there is growing scepticism whether a single currency can be launched by the 1999 deadline, and scant conviction that Greece will be ready to join at the start if it is.

Greece is the only Mediterranean country which has taken a firm line on a specific issue in a way that could jeopardise the outcome of the IGC. Its reputation with the Turks over a disputed islet in the Aegean, the new prime minister, Costas Simitis, warned earlier this month: "As long as our vital national interests are not safeguarded by EU commitments, Greece will always keep its right of veto active."

The clout of Greece and the other net aid recipients is nevertheless circumscribed by their dependence on EU handouts. Paradoxically, it is Italy — the only country in southern Europe with the moral authority to question the direction the Union is taking — which is least inclined to do so.

There have been suggestions of an incipient Italian rebellion. However, Sergio Berlusconi's foreign minister, Antonio Martino, was taken by some British Conservatives to be a Euro-sceptic until it emerged that he was in favour of a single currency.

More recently, there has been speculation that Italy's foreseeable difficulties in meeting the criteria for monetary union might dim its enthusiasm for the introduction of the euro. But last Sunday the present foreign minister, Susanna Agnelli, swept away doubts, even looking forward to a "United States of Europe".

A Zambian court yesterday ordered the immediate release of two newspaper editors jailed by parliament for criticising its members and the government. — AP.

A Belgian arms company has built a munitions plant in north-west Kenya and is training production staff, a Belgian newspaper said yesterday. It said the \$5 million plant was close to Rwanda and Burundi. — Reuters.

A church in Thomasville, Georgia, is trying to move the body of a baby born without a skull to a different cemetery because of her mixed race, the family says. — AP.

A Brazilian paraplegic said on Tuesday he may sue a Roman Catholic bishop who rejected his marriage application because he was impotent. — Reuters.

A moderate earthquake shook Mexico City and other southern cities early yesterday, although there were no immediate reports of deaths or damage. — Reuters.

While other suspects languish in a top-security jail, a Croatian general is refusing to come for trial at the international war crimes tribunal until an apartment is arranged for him in The Hague. Such an arrangement is legal under tribunal rules. — AP.

Next: How Britain sees the EU. Hugo Young, page 9

US warning angers Greeks

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE's prime minister, Costas Simitis, strongly urged Washington yesterday to retract a warning to United States visitors that Athens airport is unsafe.

He told the US ambassador that the travel warning would seriously damage the country's tourism industry. Washington issued the

warning after Athens's international airport failed a safety inspection by US travel experts, despite repeated efforts to upgrade security standards.

"The Hellenikon airport does not maintain and carry out effective airport security measures," Federico Pena, the US transport secretary, said in a statement which is now appended to airline tickets for journeys between the two countries.

A similar travel warning by the Reagan administration in 1985 had devastating effects on tourism. US visitors to Greece dropped from 600,000 to 100,000 in less than a year.

Preoccupied with security after the US warning and a recent attempt by leftwing guerrillas to hit the US embassy in Athens with a rocket, the Greek authorities have arranged for thousands of police to guard the US first lady, Hillary Clinton, when she starts a three-day visit to the country today to watch the Olympic Flame lit for this year's Atlanta Games.



Some of the 100 African immigrant families evicted from a gymnasium by police last Sunday sit in the annex of St Jean-Baptiste de la Salle church in Paris yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: RENY DE LA MALVIERE

News in brief

No word from captive Briton

Cambodian authorities had failed by late yesterday to contact a gunman holding a British mine disposal expert and his interpreter and said the kidnapers might be heading into rebel territory. "Tonight, tomorrow morning, nobody comes to talk. I have no hope [of a swift release]," the governor of Siem Reap province, Teou Chhay, told reporters. — Reuters.

China-Israel deal

China and Israel will work together to have more Israeli firms participate in Chinese development projects, the finance ministers of the two countries announced yesterday. — AP.

Editors freed

A Zambian court yesterday ordered the immediate release of two newspaper editors jailed by parliament for criticising its members and the government. — AP.

Kenya arms plant

A Belgian arms company has built a munitions plant in north-west Kenya and is training production staff, a Belgian newspaper said yesterday. It said the \$5 million plant was close to Rwanda and Burundi. — Reuters.

Grave racism

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Wedding ban

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Mexico quake

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Cosseted custody

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Yeltsin to sup off silver spoons

David Hearst in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN, a village lad who spent his childhood sleeping on the floor of a room in a communal hut in Perm because his labourer father was too poor to buy furniture, was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

There are signs that, as Russian president, he intends to rectify this. One of these is an extraordinarily large contract which Robbe and Berking, a long-established firm of silversmiths in the German town of Flensburg, received in February.

It is to provide 6,000 pieces of silver cutlery over the next six months for four official residences of the Russian government. At DM160 (£72) a teaspoon or DM22,000 (£12,700) for a candlestick, there is no hiding the sound of joyful tapping in the smithies of Flensburg.

The design chosen for the privilege of being embellished with by the Russian double-headed imperial eagle is the "Alt-Spaten", which the firm first produced in 1889 — a suitably imperial era for Russia's post-communist president.

Apparently the spoon first came to the president's attention during his last official visit to Bonn, when he stayed in Peterberg, the official German government residence.

The president's silver is only the latest of a series of acquisitions destined to pamper his last days in office. Last year the mean of the people left his ZIL in the garage and appeared for the first time in a stretched Mercedes 600.

Ever since, Russian bureaucrats have been gleefully abandoning their throaty black Volgas to park around town in a new government fleet of six-cylinder Audi A6s. Eighteenth-century reproduction furniture from Italy has begun filling Mr Yeltsin's official residence in the Kremlin Senate Palace. The International Monetary Fund would have to suspend its new loan it has approved for Russia if a new Russian government to be elected this year took a communist approach to the economy, a top IMF official said yesterday yesterday.

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We should not tell women who want to give up their children that they are callous in sending their babies away.

Linda Grant O2 page 9



Wins in California, Washington and Nevada give the senator the Republican presidential nomination

Buchanan urged to quit as Dole soars

Martin Walker in Washington

PAT BUCHANAN will decide today whether to mount a third-party campaign from the right wing, after a day fending off demands from fellow Republicans that he should withdraw from the hopeless fight for the Republican presidential nomination and throw his support behind Senator Robert Dole.

"We are not defeated, and we are going all the way to the convention in San Diego to speak out," he said after winning only 16 per cent of the vote in the California primary, against Mr Dole's 64 per cent.

Mr Buchanan's own plan is to publish his "McLean Manifesto" of demands, lead by bans on abortion and affirmative action. It could leave his options open by serving as either the basis for a third party bid or the price of his support for Mr Dole, now assured of being the party's candidate after sweeping this week's primaries.

The battle for the Republican nomination is over and the battle for America begins

against political realities: whether or not he wins the presidency, Mr Dole will remain Senate leader.

gather at his home in McLean, Virginia, today for the decisive meeting.

Threatened with virtual excommunication from the party and terrible revenge from a future Dole administration if they continue with the Buchanan campaign, his advisers are balancing their ideological convictions

Clinton in November. When pressed, they explained that their motive in voting for Mr Dole in the primary was to express their opposition to Mr Buchanan's extreme brand of Republicanism.

Clinton in November. When pressed, they explained that their motive in voting for Mr Dole in the primary was to express their opposition to Mr Buchanan's extreme brand of Republicanism.

state in advance. "It's going to be very hard to win, but it can be done with a real aggressive campaign, if you are prepared to spend the 10 million bucks a serious effort would need."

He cited the latest polls, showing that Californians favour Mr Dole over President Clinton by three to two as a commander-in-chief during a military crisis, and also rating him higher for honesty, integrity, family values and standing up for his beliefs.



A boy watches from a bus leaving Dhaka as residents quit the capital before transport grinds to a halt in today's general strike. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MOORE

Bangladeshi PM yields to opposition pressure

Reuters in Dhaka

THE Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, gave in to months of pressure yesterday and asked President Abdur Rahman Biswas to set up a caretaker government to oversee elections, state television reported.

Earlier, senior bureaucrats told the president they could not continue working unless the country's political crisis was resolved, and that all the parties had come to an agreement on the appointment of a caretaker government.

The opposition parties said she must stand down to enable a law mandating a caretaker government to take effect.

The parliament, which is composed almost entirely of members of Ms Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party, passed the law on Tuesday in an attempt to end the political crisis.

ANC calls for Inkatha arrests

David Beresford in Johannesburg

THE South African rand fell sharply on financial markets yesterday in anticipation of a potentially violent showdown between the government and the Inkatha Freedom Party on the streets of Johannesburg today.

The African National Congress called for the arrest of Inkatha leaders planning a mass march through the commercial capital, after Chief Minister Buthelez's party said the demonstrators would be carrying "traditional" weapons in defiance of a police ban.



Chief Buthelez: his party is ready to defy weapons ban

KwaZulu, Frank Mdlalose, said yesterday that the ban was unenforceable and any attempt to impose it would lead to chaos and violence.

"Can you imagine what it is like to meet a whole sea of 10,000 people carrying their accoutrements, killing nobody, and enjoying song? Can you imagine what it is like to start arresting these people? That is what will set up violence," he said.

But the ANC minister responsible for security in the Gauteng regional government, Jessie Duarte, said: "The march will not be allowed to continue if these weapons are in the possession of any of the marchers."

China demands HK loyalty test

An exodus looms because Hong Kong civil servants must pledge allegiance to the new regime, writes Andrew Higgins

WITH only 460 days of colonial rule left, British officials are bracing themselves for a confrontational and chaotic end of empire after a Chinese decision to impose a political loyalty test on civil servants, the central pillar of Hong Kong's stability.

The announcement that senior bureaucrats must pledge allegiance to a Beijing-appointed provisional legislature if they wish to serve beyond the 1997 handover threatens to sap morale and trigger an exodus of administrators and professionals.

The move has been widely condemned as transplanting Communist Party political culture to Hong Kong in violation of a promise that the territory will enjoy a "high degree of autonomy". It further damages confidence, already badly shaken by Chi-

na's recent missile tests and military exercises near Taiwan: an ominous sign that Beijing is willing to sacrifice economic and diplomatic self-interest to enforce obedience.

The governor, Chris Patten, called on China yesterday to clarify its intentions, saying that a politically neutral civil service was essential.

"Anyone who doesn't understand that," he said, "doesn't understand how Hong Kong works, doesn't understand how the civil service works, doesn't understand the nature of a free society under the rule of law."

Hong Kong has opened an "express passport counter" to cope with a last-minute scramble by thousands of people before Sunday's deadline for British Dependent Territories Citizen (BDTC) passports. The document, available to about 2.2 million

people, carries no right of abode in Britain but provides an alternative to the Chinese Special Administrative Region passport Beijing will issue after 1997.

"If the confidence of the civil service is shaken it is like throwing a rock into a pond. The reverberations spread out through the whole society," said Michele DeGolyer, director of the Hong Kong Transition Project.

The day after the Taiwanese election, the first time any Chinese society has elected its leader, a handpicked group of Hong Kong advisers voted 149-1 in Beijing to scrap Hong Kong's elected legislature.

The one dissenter, Frederick Fung Kin-kee, was promptly told he would be excluded from future decision-making bodies.

A British protest against the vote was mocked by Zhang Junsheng, a senior Chinese official in Hong Kong, as worthy of a "collection of the world's best political jokes".

The assembly will be replaced by the provisional legislature to which Hong Kong civil servants must pledge their loyalty. The new body is likely to be named by the end of the year, establishing a rival source of authority to a lame duck colonial government headed by Mr Patten.

Chen Ziyang, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, announced on Tuesday that principal government officials must endorse the new legislature. In briefings with Hong Kong journalists in Beijing, Chinese officials say they must choose before the handover whether they wish to serve Mr Patten or accept the authority of the new legislature.

News in brief

Bomb at grave in Colombia
Three men were arrested for seeking to turn a cemetery in the Colombian capital into a virtual killing field, police said yesterday.

Hostages 'well'
Eleven hostages held by rebels in Indonesia's Irian Jaya were said to be well after they were visited yesterday by the International Red Cross, a source close to the operation said. — Reuters.

Tajik aid plea
The United Nations Children's Fund launched a world appeal yesterday to raise \$3.7 million to help women and children in Tajikistan, responding to "a forgotten and silent emergency". Tajik-

istan went through a civil war in 1992 and violent clashes continue. — Reuters.

Grenade attack
A grenade thrown from a moving car exploded at the residence of the Honduran

president, blowing a three-foot hole in the garage floor. No one was injured. A presidential official blamed the attack on unspecified "opponents of the Liberal Party and of the president". — AP.

Whales beach
Sixteen sperm whales were found dead yesterday on a western Danish island. Officials said it was the largest whale-beaching episode in Denmark. — AP.

Moscow drugs haul
Russian customs officers netted their fourth catch of drugs in less than a week at Moscow's international airport when they nabbed eight Africans smuggling cocaine and heroin from Peru. — AP.

Toxic torrent
More than 3,000 people are stranded in the central Philippines by a torrent of possibly

toxic mine waste which has poured into a river running by their villages, social welfare officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Kashmir killing
The body of a prominent human rights activist was found yesterday, 19 days after he was reported abducted by men wearing Indian army uniforms, relatives and police said. Shopkeepers in Srinagar went on strike, and protesters took to the streets shouting anti-Indian slogans. — AP.

Modesty forbids
The supreme court of Pakistan ruled that male doctors may not perform autopsies on female corpses, claiming that to do so would offend Islamic respect for the dead. — AP.

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Finance Guardian

Axe swings at United Utilities and Pilkington as car-maker wins £71m aid for factory



Game of two halves... Michael Heseltine at Pilkingtons, where jobs are to go, in a downsized Jaguar, where jobs are coming. PHOTOGRAPH DENIS THORPE

North-west jobs blow

Mark Tran in New York

MORE than 2,000 jobs are expected to be axed today at United Utilities, the combined electricity and water group in North-west England, in the second heavy blow to the region in 24 hours.

only days before the G7 jobs summit in Lille called to discuss ways to staunch the worsening unemployment in developed countries.

United Utilities — which was formed last October from the £1.8 billion takeover of Norweb by North West Water and employs around 13,000 — would last night only confirm it will today make an announcement "giving an update" on the integration of the two companies.

Pitcher, to spell out how cost savings he claimed would follow from the creation of the first super utility will be achieved. Unions have warned that up to 5,000 jobs could eventually be lost.

approved the Norweb takeover that job losses would follow even though both companies had already cut jobs savagely since privatisation.

Europe upholds aid to Jaguar

Chris Barrie and Julie Wolf

UP TO 6,000 jobs will be created at Jaguar and its suppliers following the European Commission's decision yesterday to clear Government aid worth £71.3 million for the car company's new factory in Birmingham.

Notebook

Tories see upside of downsizing



Edited by Alex Brummer

world's \$1.2 trillion-a-day currency deals are so flawed that the forex market is a banking accident waiting to happen.

Commercial bankers might argue that the current system is a product of judgement, rather than ignorance.

Trust busters

THERE are not many political points to be won in competition policy, which might explain why the Government has been so dilatory.

'Cleaning house' bites into Apple

Mark Tran in New York

APPLI Computer expects to lose about \$700 million (\$460 million) for the second quarter, far exceeding its previous record of \$188 million in mid-1993.

Mr Amelio has given himself 100 days to take stock of the company that symbolised the computer revolution before losing its way through indecisive management.

Bankers risking forex mayhem

Mark Millner

CENTRAL bankers are calling for an overhaul of the way banks settle foreign exchange deals because of the potentially huge risks to the world's financial system posed by present arrangements.

commercial banks two years in which to bring down their exposure on currency trading, though it has not yet said what will happen if they fail to comply.

participant to meet its [foreign exchange] settlement or other obligations when due may cause significant liquidity credit problems for other participants, and so may threaten the stability of financial markets.

day, their exposure often runs for longer than they believe and the amount at risk is greater than they expect.

Drug firms 'cheated shops'

Mark Tran in New York

ACCUSATIONS that some of the world's biggest drug companies colluded to overcharge independent pharmacies are being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission.

Pfizer and Sanofi are among 22 companies being investigated. The FTC inquiry will focus on whether companies engaged in "unlawful concerted activities to raise, fix, maintain or stabilise prices".

Rises renew pay row

Pauline Springett

AFRERE row over boardroom pay erupted yesterday following the disclosure of huge executive pay rises at BAT Industries and Barclays Bank.

£428,126 of the bonus, which had been notionally awarded but not yet paid, was the alternative to share options which were not permitted in the US.

lowest incomes are losing out while those at the top award themselves fat pay rises."

Treasury is blamed for 1p on stamps

Simon Deans

THE Post Office was forced to break a 2½-year price freeze yesterday when it announced a 1p rise in first and second class postage rates.

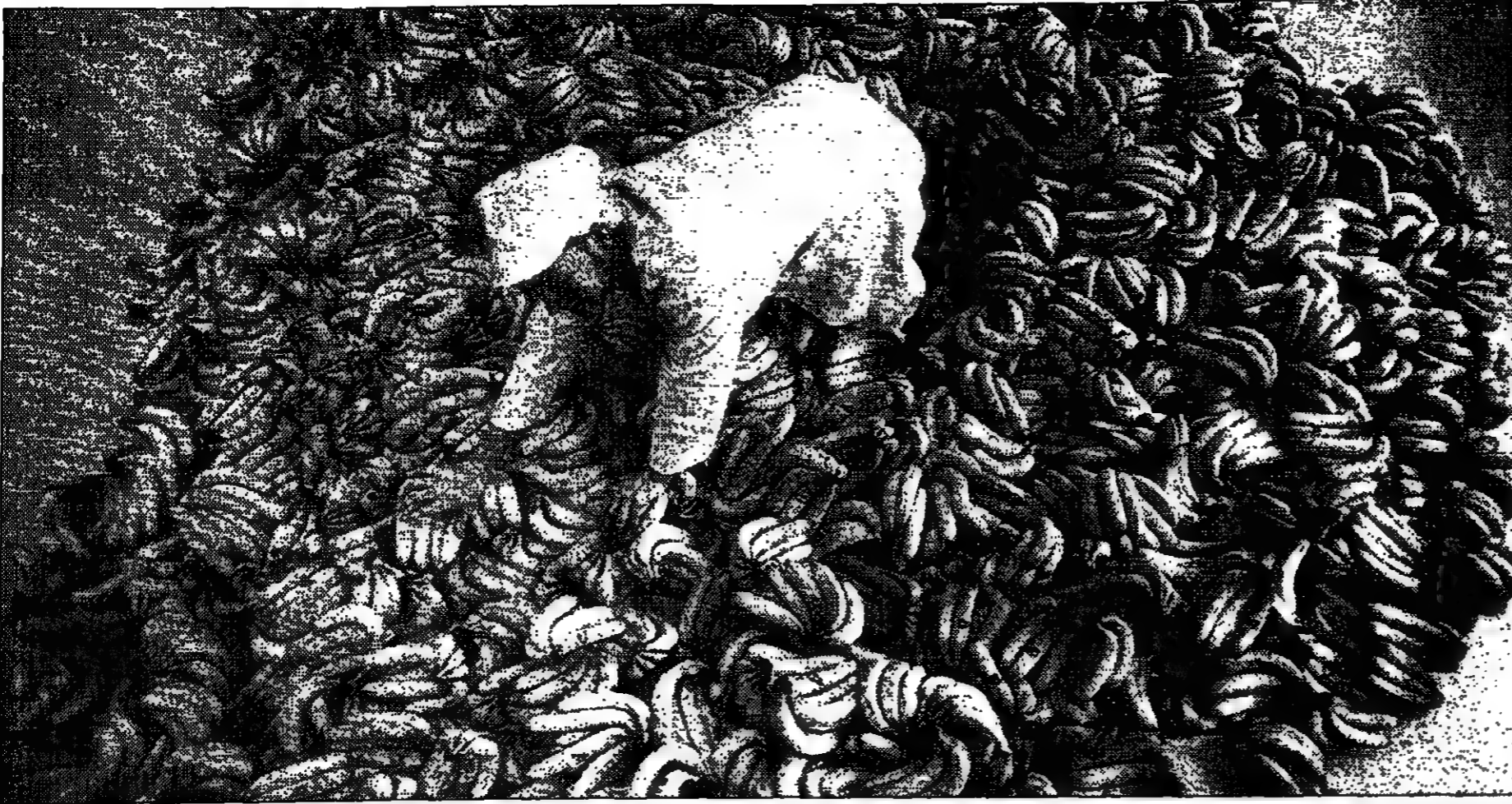
Granny to rescue

Larry Elliott

BOOMING bond sales help reduce swollen PSBR, says Larry Elliott

£5 billion this year, compared to only £3 billion at the time of the Budget.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS. Table with columns for location and rate. Locations include Australia 1.80, Austria 15.25, Belgium 44.80, Canada 2.025, Cyprus 6.875, Denmark 8.47, Finland 6.97, France 7.45, Germany 2.1950, Greece 362.00, Hong Kong 11.56, India 51.67, Ireland 11.500, Israel 4.74, Italy 2.345, Malta 0.54, Netherlands 2.46, New Zealand 2.19, Norway 6.55, Portugal 228.50, Turkey 99.500, USA 1.4850, Singapore 2.10, South Africa 5.82, Spain 183.25, Sweden 9.38, Switzerland 1.78, Taiwan 22.50, Turkey 99.500, USA 1.4850.



Green bananas... Process worker Jason Teyhan sorts through raw material to go into Banana Conditioner for Body Shop. The 'ethical' cosmetics chain celebrated its 20th birthday yesterday with founder Anita Roddick announcing plans to expand into South Africa, Argentina and Chile, and to introduce self-service aromatherapy bars. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Orange sparkles on debut

Nicholas Bannister
Technology Editor

ORANGE'S stock market debut yesterday was a roaring success with big instant profits for the mobile phone group's new shareholders and its original owners. Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace...

company at £2.9 billion — at the top end of analysts' earlier estimates. However, the allocation of shares has been scaled down in the face of overwhelming demand. Many institutions will receive a share while private investors, the bulk of them Orange customers, will receive only a percentage of shares applied for.

issue's £24 million proceeds, while the share price puts a healthy valuation on their stakes in the company. BAE shares closed 13p up at 86p. The offer was heavily oversubscribed with applications for nearly 11 times the number of shares on offer.

About 70 per cent of the 33,000 applications for shares from individuals came from customers of Orange's mobile phone and paging services — the only individuals specifically targeted with offer information. The offer to individual investors had a minimum investment of £1,000. Orange has decided to give preference to people who applied for the minimum or just above it.

for £200,000 worth of shares. People who applied for shares worth more than £200,000, and people who applied for shares at below the final offer price of 205p will get no shares.

to the market. If the facility is fully used, the stakes of Hutchison and BAE will be diluted to 47.33 per cent and 21.48 per cent, respectively. Orange is still incurring losses and its share-price has been based on analysts' estimates of its growth well into the next century.

Woolies' owner shoplifts ideas

OUTLOOK/A long way to go for Kingfisher to win through, reports Roger Cowe

KINGFISHER'S rebound from last year's post-Christmas crisis looks impressive, as did yesterday's buoyant share price. But the headline figures published yesterday exaggerate the extent of the retail group's recovery, and hide how far it has to go to be back on an even keel.

levels. Profits growth of 9 per cent at the French electrical chain Darty looks impressive, but was greatly flattered by the strength of the franc. And now the DIY chain B&Q is in trouble.

There is nothing wrong with that — it obviously makes so much sense to protect power tools from theft and to improve stockholding that the only question is why it wasn't done before.

Kingfisher has slowed the expansion of the 21-strong Warehouse chain — apparently the main source of friction with Mr Hodgkinson — but still believes there is scope for 75 of these giant 'destination stores' without making a great dent in the sales of the Supercentres.

Barratt needs land to expand

Ian King

BARRATT Developments, one of Britain's biggest housebuilders, yesterday backed its belief that the ailing housing market is set for recovery, announcing a £30 million rights issue, the proceeds to be spent on land.

market continues to consolidate. He said Barratt had looked at the 12 house-builders put up for sale over the past three years, but none had met the group's land requirements.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

HOW fortunate that HSBG (Midland's parent) whacked out its invites to the launch of chief economist Roger Booth's new opus *The Death of Inflation* — Surviving and Thriving in the Zero Era, ahead of yesterday's Post Office announcement of a penny rise in first-class stamps (that's an almost-zero 4 per cent increase, against a nearer-to-zero national rate of 2.9 per cent).

ness achievement. First Robert Ayling, Brit-Arboss, said: "It makes sense to invest in the diversity of Britain's ethnic populous."

ASK Kjell Fronsdal, president of the Norwegian stock exchange, about results, and, rather than drone on about spreads and share volumes, he embarks on a passionate critique of Eric Cantona's goal-scoring record.

NINETTY-NINE point five per cent is the sort of result associated with Soviet general elections in the President Brezhnev days, but when it describes the take-up rate for converting British Biotech warrants into shares, you can assume it's a true bill.

FORGET the propaganda about British financial services practically expiring under a mountain of bureaucratic blumph. AFCMS, the private-client stockbrokers' group, was asked recently by Hesse's decontrol unit for a list of hated rules and regs.



THE horror, the horror (1); The old middle-class jibe about the Q&E being stuffed to the gunwales not with Gary Grant characters but with Birmingham tobaccoists looms close to reality, we hear.

THE horror, the horror (2): Strenuous efforts by up-tight businessmen to be politically correct continue to wreak havoc with the English language. The latest mangling comes in the launch document of Enterprise UK '96, an exhibition of African, Asian and Caribbean busi-

News in brief

Bid battle for huge nickel field

THE world's largest nickel mining company, Toronto-based Inco, has launched a \$4.5 billion Canadian dollar (£2.17 billion) takeover bid for Diamond Fields Resources Inc. owner of a vast nickel field in Labrador.

Phillips hots up chips output

PHILIPS is to invest 800 million guilders (£316 million) to increase microchip production at one of its Dutch plants within the next two years. Yesterday's announcement came just two days after the company warned lower-than-expected growth in semiconductor output would lead to a "substantial drop" in profit in the first three months.

Press group profits rise

ACQUISITIONS have helped independent newspapers, the publishing flagship of Irish tycoon Tony O'Reilly's empire, lift full year pre-tax profits by 35 per cent to £55 million.

Homes slump hits Caradon

CARADON, the struggling building materials group which owns Everest double glazing and Mira showers, yesterday announced a collapse in full year pre-tax profits from £201.3 million to £114.3 million.

Dobson joins bank board

MICHAEL Dobson, chief executive of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the City-based investment bank arm of Germany's largest commercial bank, was yesterday nominated to Deutsche Bank's executive board.

Blow for electronic noses

SHARES of Aromascan, which makes electronic "noses", fell 42p to 126p yesterday after the company issued its second profits warning this year.

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£9,000	12.25	127.11	144.36	198.44
£7,000	12.75	100.67	114.00	155.93
£5,000	12.75	71.91	81.43	111.38

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Racing Cigar burns off the best in the world

Chris Hawkins in Dubai sees wonder horse lead a clean sweep for America

SPEED, stamina and natural talent are essential qualities in any athlete, human or equine, but the most admirable is courage and Cigar showed awesome valour to beat Soul Of The Matter by half a length in a desperate battle for the Dubai World Cup yesterday.

Cigar had hit the front soon after turning for home, just as he had done in all his 13 straight wins up to now, but this time it was different — something went with him. The \$4 million question was posed and Cigar answered like a street-fighter prepared to scrap until willpower prevails. "It was eyeball to eyeball but he dug so deep and just wasn't going to let him by," said Jerry Bailey, his rider. "If we'd gone round another time, Soul Of The Matter would still never have got past."



Desert delight... Cigar has the call over Soul Of The Matter in the Dubai World Cup

After L'Carriere had made the running early on, the Japanese challenger Lively Mount forged to the front, but it was only on the outside. With three furlongs to run it was clear that Halling, the Maktooms' big gun, was not firing and he steadily dropped back to finish a very disappointing last. Meanwhile, up front Cigar still seemed to be cantering. He quickened when Bailey shook him up to burn off Pentre but suddenly Soul Of The Matter

burst on the scene, having made a phenomenal amount of ground. For a stride or two, half a furlong out, he seemed to get in front but Burt Bacharach's colt would have needed a train, a boat and a plane to get by. Stevens said Soul Of The Matter had definitely got his head in front and never gave up. "He showed so much guts and got into such a rhythm he was going like a locomotive. You couldn't ask for a better horse race — it's the best I've ever been in."

With L'Carriere running on strongly, the Yanks had the first three home and demonstrated their domination of dirt-track racing. Pentre, Britain's main hope, ran on gamely to take fourth place, while Needle Grass, trained by Clive Brittain, finished seventh. Geoff Wragg, who trains Pentre, said: "I'm very pleased with the way my horse has run. We've been beaten by the three best dirt horses in America."

The home Arab train simply failed to show but Sheikh Mohammed said he was very pleased with the result he really needed to establish the reputation of this race. Cigar will now go back to New York to be rested and then readied for the Hollywood Gold Cup in 90 days' time. If he takes that, it will be 15 in a row and he will need two more to beat the record of the mighty Citation. The plan is to keep him in training until the autumn for another crack at the Breeders' Cup and then possibly retirement. Bill Mott did a wonderful job to get Cigar fit for this after giving to cut off his shoe himself when the colt injured his foot a month ago.

"Maybe he wasn't quite at his best today," said Mott, "but he had to reach down and find something else. Sheer grit was what he wanted and he proved he had it." Allen Paulson, the owner, named Cigar after a radio checkpoint from Tampa to New Orleans. This veteran pilot, who holds the record for a round-the-world flight, was on cloud nine, saying they would now be shooting for the moon. You had to smile at the clichés but he had just seen a race that had left many people speechless.

Toureen Prince to go one better in mini-National

After weakening rather dramatically in the closing stages behind Imperial Call and Rough Quest, Coulted Be Better may be no good thing at all, particularly as his old blood vessel problem could resurface at any time. However, he is more reliable than Barton Bank who was another four lengths back in fourth behind Imperial Call and who ran badly in this race last year.

The smallest Grand National field for 26 years is likely to face the starter on Saturday after Dextra Dove and Toogood To Be True were ruled out yesterday through injury. They are likely to be joined by Tartan Tyrant, who will not run unless there is substantial rain. Their absence will reduce the field to 29 — the lowest turnout since Gay Trip beat 27 rivals in 1970. Dextra Dove has been struggling since sustaining a neck injury in his last race and then ripping off three shoes last Friday. He is a little school last night but he's just not right," said trainer Simon Barle. Toogood To Be True's trainer Tim Easterby said: "He's responding well to treatment on an infected hock but not as quickly as we had hoped."

Graham McCourt, who has given up race-riding to concentrate on training, bowed out in style when steering home Sister Stephanie at Cheltenham yesterday. "I came in on a winner and now I am going out on one," said McCourt, 36, who won on his first ride in 1975 and retires with a total of 321 wins, just behind the home Sister Stephanie. His finest moments in the saddle include a Gold Cup win aboard Norton's Coin in 1980, followed by Royal Gair's Champion Hurdle triumph two years later.

Taunton

Table of racing results for Taunton, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Leicester

Table of racing results for Leicester, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Aintree card with form guide for the televised races

Table of racing results for Aintree, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

BBC-2

Table of racing results for BBC-2, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring phone numbers and commentary services.

Soccer

Diehard protests over European debacle in Bordeaux mar Berlusconi's 10th anniversary in charge at the San Siro

Milan caught by fans' bitter backlash

AFTER the success Milan have enjoyed under Silvio Berlusconi it might have been expected that his 10th anniversary in charge of the club would have been cause for celebration.

"You can lose the derby and the cup but not your dignity" was emblazoned on one of the banners.

Although the protests were not directed at Berlusconi he was quick to criticise them.

In attack George Weah, who has been outstanding despite missing four weeks playing for Liberia in the African Nations Cup, is out for another month after breaking his arm in Bordeaux.

Loss of dignity of a team that is winning its fourth title in five years? asked the Gazzetta dello Sport.

Championship because of the current scare over British beef.

Republic of Ireland 0, Russia 2

Keane sent off as Irish luck runs out

Cynthia Bateman

THE Irish are beginning to wonder if they used up all their legendary good luck.

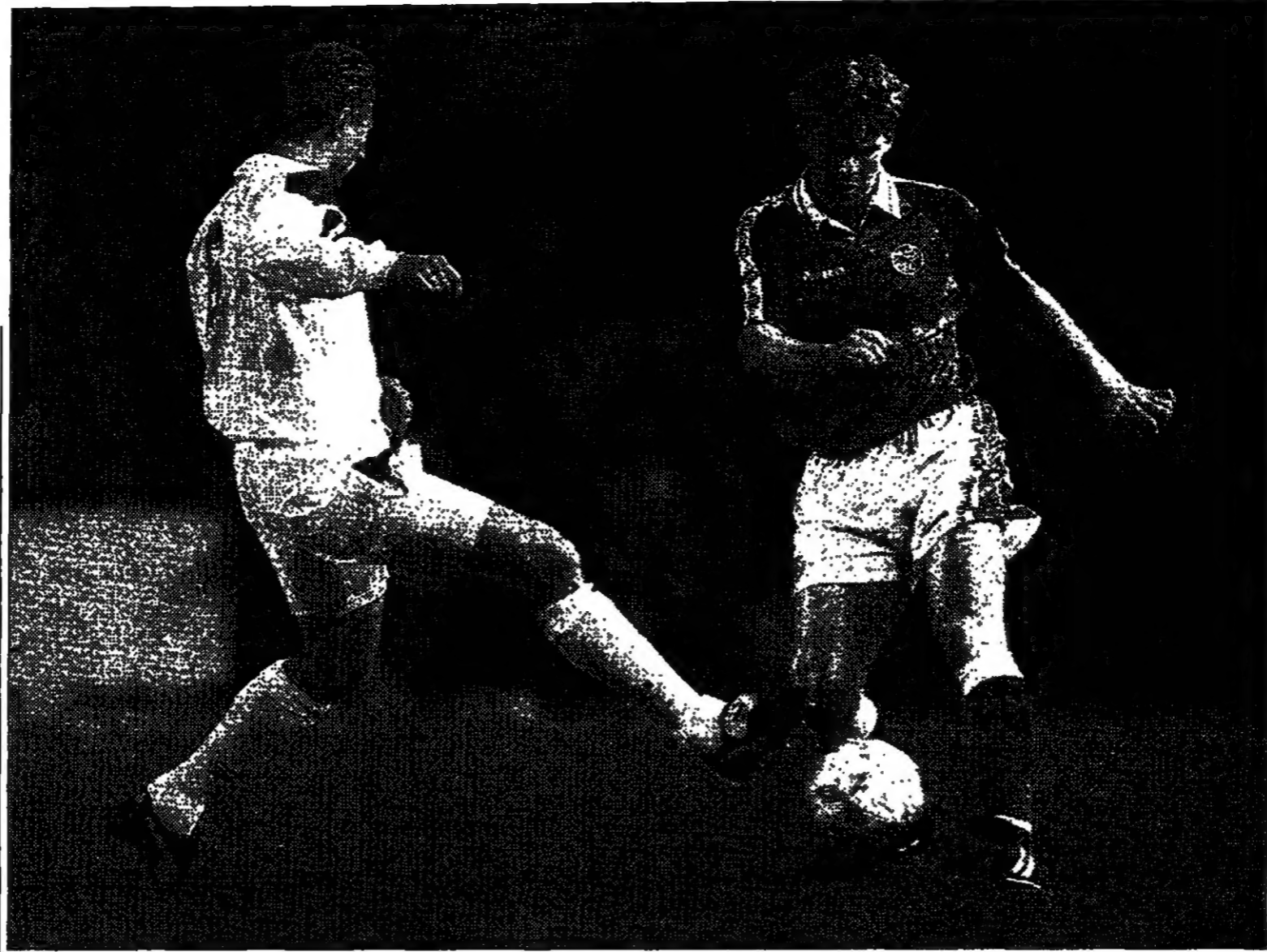
Nevertheless there were encouraging signs for the new manager Mick McCarthy after his first game in charge.

Given the 19-year-old debutant goalkeeper was tested early by the Russians but

showed no sign of nerves as the Kazakh striker Kiryakov, one of eight players in the side with clubs outside Russia, produced a first shot which the Blackburn goalkeeper, now on loan at Sunderland, saved confidently at the end of the near post.

The Irish grew more comfortable with one another as half-time approached. But after a 25-yard free-kick from McAteer failed to deceive the goalkeeper, the Russians counter-attacked bravely.

Cascarino replaced Al-Diryani on the hour, and the Irish had their best spell. In the 64th minute Quinn headed against the bar and the Irish then missed a penalty when the goalkeeper blocked Staunton's spot-kick.



Quick release... the Republic's Staunton gets rid of the ball as the Russian Karpin lunges into the tackle

PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN BERTSON

Northern Ireland 0, Norway 2

Hamilton's men find no way against Norway

Michael Walker

ON A soulless night in Belfast the promise of Bryan Hamilton's young Northern Ireland team evaporated like confidence in cattle farming.

Five English-based Norwegians and another two on the bench made this essentially a Premiership clash, though the atmosphere in the early stages was more reminiscent of a reserve-team match.

A break by Norway's languid midfielder Rudi freed Solbakken for a toe-poked shot and two minutes later an inswinging corner from Bjornedye again saw Worthington come to his goalkeeper's rescue.

Only Gillespie, playing his first game for over a month, showed any spark for Northern Ireland and even he was subdued by his usual standards.

From time Ostenstad finished off Rudi's cross from four yards, and the final indignity for the home side came time when Dore was dismissed for elbowing Johnsen.

United lose their appeal

Ian Hoos

MANCHESTER United's pride and pocket were hit yesterday when they lost their appeal against a £20,000 fine for illegally appointing one of the country's most promising young players.

"We felt we were working within the rules and are disappointed with today's result. The rules need clarifying and, although no further appeal is allowed, I think we will be pressing the Premier League to look at the rule-book."

Third Dane set for Ibrox

MIKKEL BECK, currently playing for Fortuna Cologne in Germany's second division, is expected to become the third Danish player on Rangers' books in a deal worth \$980,000.

Beck's adviser Kurt Behrens said yesterday that there was also interest from Hamburg and a top Spanish club but that the striker wanted to go to Glasgow, if personal terms could be sorted out.

Beck's kind of likes the idea of going to Scotland and joining up with Brian and Erik Bo at Rangers," said Behrens. "I do not know the position of talks between Rangers and his club but everyone is telling me it is very positive."

Charlton has strengthened their promotion-chasing squad by spending £400,000 on the Queens Park Rangers striker Bradley Allen, who has failed to hold a regular place in QPR's first team this season despite an impressive strike-rate of 27 goals in 80 appearances for them.

He joins Charlton only 24 hours after the First Division club signed the Everton defender Matt Jackson on a month's loan. The manager Alan Curbishley could recoup about £250,000 of his outlay on Allen by selling Kim Grant, who is having talks with Luton.

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Tennis Florida's big four thunder on THE United States' big guns - Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and Michael Chang - duly thundered into the quarter-finals of the Lipton Championships at Key Biscayne in Florida yesterday.

Sampras and Agassi boomed out straight-sets wins over Todd Martin and Canada's Sebastien Lareau, but Courier and Chang were in more muffled form. Courier dropped the opening set to Australia's Michael Tabbutt before winning 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Chang showed inconsistency in beating the determined Czech Petr Korda 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Sampras, who hopes to regain the world No. 1 spot with a tournament victory. Some of his first serves were timed at 130mph. The last eight are completed by Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, Arnaud Boetsch of France and two unseeded Americans, Michael Joyce and Vince Spadea, who respectively upset Marc Rosset of Switzerland and Richard Krajicek of Holland.

Steffi Graf, the women's top seed, was extended to 7-6, 6-3 by Kimiko Date of Japan and had the bonus of avoiding her German rival Anke Huber in the semi-finals; the American Lindsay Davenport took Huber's place after a surprisingly quick 6-0, 6-1 win.

Table with 2 columns: Results and Fixtures. Includes sections for Soccer, Basketball, Bowls, and Hockey with various match outcomes and upcoming fixtures.

Table with 2 columns: Results and Fixtures. Includes sections for Soccer, Basketball, Bowls, and Hockey with various match outcomes and upcoming fixtures.

Athletics Lisbon defends Modahl testing

Duncan Mackay

PORTUGUESE officials who conducted the doping test on Diane Modahl have broken their 19-month silence to defend themselves after the International Amateur Athletic Federation said they had mishandled her sample.

The technical director who analysed her sample, Professor Jorge Barbosa, refused to come to London to answer for the case at British Athletic Federation hearings.

When Modahl's medical experts travelled to Portugal in August 1994 to witness the testing of the B sample they were horrified at the conditions inside the laboratory. Extensive building work was taking place and there was a lack of refrigeration facilities to store samples.

Modahl says she will now give a private urine sample before every race. It will be sent for storage to Professor Simon Gaskell, whose evidence was crucial in clearing her name.

Rugby League Bulls bid for unsettled McNamara

Paul Fitzpatrick

BRADFORD BULLS may be close to agreeing a deal with Hull for their Great Britain forward Steve McNamara. The Bulls are believed to have offered the First Division club £100,000 for the unsettled player.

That is well below Hull's list price of £250,000 and has been rejected. But an increase of £10,000 or £20,000 might clinch the deal.

Bradford, who reached the Challenge Cup final for the first time in 33 years last Saturday, have made McNamara the 34-year-old forward before. He is a player long admired by the Super League club's coach Brian Smith, who when he was coach at the Bulls signed McNamara as a 19-year-old amateur club player in 1989.

Clive Griffiths, the South Wales coach, is trying desperately to build his squad in time for the new club's opening fixture against Hull Kingston Rovers in the Second Division at Aberavon on Sunday.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring the word 'Tomato' and other text.

